All changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:

monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

saving a failed print task when a print task failure occurs;

monitoring said print system for a successful print task;

resending said saved, failed print task to a printer to which said successful print task was sent.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said monitoring for a print task failure, said saving, said monitoring for a successful print task and said resending are controlled by a print system component.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said print system component is a print processor.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said print system component is a spooler.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said resending only occurs when said printer to which said successful print task was sent is the same printer as the one to which the failed print task was sent.

6.   The method of claim 1 further comprising determining the characteristics of said successful print task and said failed print task and comparing said successful print task characteristics to said failed print task characteristics to determine the availability of a compatible

5   printer for said failed print task and wherein said resending only occurs when said printer is compatible with said failed print task.

7.   A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:

monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

saving a failed print task when a print task failure

occurs;

5   monitoring said print system for a successful print

task;

analyzing said successful print task characteristics

to determine the capability of the printer to

which said successful print task was sent;

10   evaluating said printer's capability to determine

whether said printer can print said failed print

task;

resending said saved, failed print task to said

printer if said printer is capable of printing

15   said failed print task.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein said evaluating

comprises comparing the characteristics of said successful print task to

the characteristics of said failed print task.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein said evaluating

comprises comparing the capability of said printer to the requirements of

said failed print task.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein said evaluating comprises determining the location of said printer from said successful print task data and querying said printer for its capabilities and comparing said printer capabilities with the requirements of said failed

5   print task.

11.   A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:

monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

prompting a user to prioritize a failed print task

when a print task failure occurs;

5   saving said failed print task when its priority is

sufficiently high;

monitoring said print system for a successful print

task;

analyzing said successful print task characteristics

10   to determine the capability of the printer to

which said successful print task was sent;

evaluating said printer's capability to determine

whether said printer can print said failed print

task;

15   prompting said user to choose to reprint said failed

print task if said printer is capable of printing

said failed print task; and

resending said saved, failed print task to said

printer if said user has chosen to reprint said

20   failed print task.

12. A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:

    monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

    saving said failed print task;

    monitoring said print system for a successful print

        task;

    analyzing said successful print task characteristics

        to determine the capability of the printer to

        which said successful print task was sent;

    evaluating said printer's capability to determine

        whether said printer can print said failed print

        task;

    modifying said failed print task to allow printing

        on said printer when said print task cannot

        otherwise be printed on said printer; and

    sending said modified, failed print task to said

        printer.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said modifying comprises emulating at least one element of said print task in software that would otherwise have been performed by printer hardware.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said modifying comprises emulating page formatting in software.

15.   A system for recovering a failed print task comprising:

    a first monitor for monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

    storage for saving a failed print task when a print task failure occurs;

    a second monitor for monitoring said print system for a successful print task;

    an analyzer for analyzing said successful print task characteristics to determine the capability of the printer to which said successful print task was sent;

    an evaluator for evaluating said printer's capability to determine whether said printer can print said failed print task;

    a sender for resending said saved, failed print task to said printer if said printer is capable of printing said failed print task.

16.   A computer readable medium comprising instructions for performing functions within a print system component, said instructions comprising the acts of:

        monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

5   saving a failed print task when a print task failure occurs;

        monitoring said print system for a successful print task;

        analyzing said successful print task characteristics

10   to determine the capability of the printer to which said successful print task was sent;

        evaluating said printer's capability to determine whether said printer can print said failed print task;

15   resending said saved, failed print task to said printer if said printer is capable of printing said failed print task.

17. A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of recovering failed print tasks, said signal comprising instructions for:

        monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

5   saving a failed print task when a print task failure occurs;

        monitoring said print system for a successful print task;

        analyzing said successful print task characteristics

10   to determine the capability of the printer to which said successful print task was sent;

        evaluating said printer's capability to determine whether said printer can print said failed print task;

15   resending said saved, failed print task to said printer if said printer is capable of printing said failed print task.